

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

International Application Number: PCT/AU02/00413
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Title of Invention: Thermal Storage Device

Amendment:

Delete claims 6-36 in the amended PCT claims so that the claims being advanced in the national phase in the United States are claims 1-5 of the amended PCT application and read as follows:

The claims defining the Invention are as follows:

1. A refrigeration device including:
 - a generally cylindrical tank including outer side walls adapted to contain a first fluid;
 - a heat exchange fluid inlet to said tank;
 - a heat exchange fluid outlet from said tank;
 - a refrigeration unit;
 - at least one hollow refrigeration evaporator coil in fluid communication with said refrigeration unit by means of refrigerant feed and extraction pipes, said coil being helically disposed within said tank for freezing the first fluid adjacent the coil, such that in use the frozen fluid and said sidewalls together define a substantially helical path to direct the flow of a heat exchange fluid from said inlet to said outlet; and
 - a generally cylindrical column removably mounted to said tank and extending coaxially through an interior region of the tank, said column defining an inner sidewall of said tank.
2. A device according to claim 1, wherein, in use, said column supports said coil.
3. A device according to claim 1 or claim 2, further including valve means disposed selectively to introduce relatively hot fluid into said coil to rapidly heat an outer surface thereof, so as to crack and create fissures